ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

When the shutdown operation of an OS is carried out by a user of a personal computer system, a BIOS does not turn off power at once but reboots the system by a software reset to execute a POST, so that the state of the system immediately before the launch of the OS is started after completion of the POST is held in a volatile memory, and the system is shifted to a power saving mode. Subsequently, when the system is booted, the BIOS performs only restoration processing from the power saving mode while omitting the execution of the POST, and starts the launch of the OS at once. With the above configuration, the boot time of the system can be shortened by omitting the execution of the POST when the system is booted. The processes required by the POST are performed after the shutdown processing of the OS, and the state that the POST is completed after rebooting is held in the volatile memory, and the system is placed into a state of power saving mode. In this state, if the main power is cut off or the battery runs short, the system is placed into a power-off state, but the OS has already been shutdown and hence there is no danger of data loss unlike the case where the system is shifted to standby during the operation of an OS used in the prior art.